IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising transmitting a signal from at least one sensor located below the tool and adjacent to the downhole device.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the at least one sensor measures temperature.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the at least one sensor measures pressure.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the downhole device is a drill bit and one or more of the at least one sensors measures chemical characteristics of a fluid around the drill bit.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a thruster and actuating the thruster is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a drilling hammer and actuating the drilling hammer is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a stabilizer and actuating the stabilizer is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a rotatable steering apparatus and actuating the rotatable steering apparatus is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the downhole device is a vibrator and actuating the vibrator is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

31 - 45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with a downhole device comprising:

positioning a tubular string in a wellbore, the tubular string including:

a signal transducing downhole device; and

an axially extendable signal conducting tool, having a flow path therethrough, located between the downhole device and an upper end of the tubular string; and

sending a signal between the downhole device and a location above the signal conducting tool, the signal traversing a path through the signal conducting tool, wherein the signal path is physically separated from ~~the~~ any fluid flow path through the signal conducting tool.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the signal path includes a wall of the signal conducting tool.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a drill bit.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a vibrator and actuating the vibrator is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the downhole device is a rotatable steering apparatus and actuating the rotatable steering apparatus is by an electrical transmission from a surface of a well.

51. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the axially extendable signal conducting tool also has an axially displaceable electrical coupling.

52. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising pulling or pushing on the tubular string from a rig, thereby operating the axially extendable signal conducting tool to deliver the impact force.

53. (New) An assembly for use in a wellbore, comprising:

a tubular string;

a signal transducing downhole device; and

an axially extendable tool located between the downhole device and an upper end of the tubular string, comprising:

a signal path therethrough,

a flow path therethrough,

a housing,

a mandrel axially movable relative to the housing, and

an axially displaceable electrical coupling between the housing and the mandrel.

54. (New) The assembly of claim 53, wherein the signal path is isolated from the flow path.

55. (New) The assembly of claim 53, wherein the signal path is isolated from any flow path through the axially extendable tool.

56. (New) A method for delivering an impact force to a tubular string, comprising:

providing a tubular string, the tubular string comprising a jar, wherein:

the jar comprises a signal conducting path and a fluid flow path therethrough, and

the signal conducting path is isolated from the fluid flow path; and

pulling or pushing on the tubular string from a rig, thereby operating the jar to deliver the impact force.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the signal path is isolated from any flow path through the jar.

58. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the jar further comprises an axially displaceable electrical coupling.